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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TOM UDALL, a Senator from the State of New Mexico.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God of infinite goodness, confirm Your past mercies to us by empowering us to be faithful to Your commands.

Help our lawmakers this day to use their understanding, affections, health, time, and talents to do what You desire. May they strive to please You with faithful service. Lord, rule their hearts without a rival, guiding their thoughts, words, and works. Take possession of their hearts and order their steps by the power of Your loving providence.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable TOM UDALL led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, November 17, 2010.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable TOM UDALL, a Senator from the State of New Mexico, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the cloture motion on the motion to proceed to S. 3815, the Natural Gas and Electric Vehicles Act, be withdrawn and that at 11 a.m. the Senate then resume the motion to proceed to S. 3772 and immediately vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed; further, that the Senate recess from 12:30 to 4 p.m. today and that if cloture is invoked this morning, then postcloture time continue to run during any recess or adjournment of the Senate today.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have spoken to Senator HATCH and Senator MENENDEZ, who are the main sponsors of this legislation. It is extremely important legislation. We are going to continue to work to get this done. This is a bipartisan bill. There is some dispute as to what the pay-fors should be, but it is something we should be able to work out, and hopefully we can do it before the end of this year. Whether we can do that depends a lot on the schedule, but it is one of the most important things we can do. It is job creating, great for the environment, and great for the security of this Nation.

Following any leader remarks, the Senate will turn to a period of morning business until 11 a.m. this morning, with the time until 11 equally divided and controlled between the two leaders

or their designees. At 11 a.m., the Senate will proceed to vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 3772, the Paycheck Fairness Act. If cloture is not invoked, the Senate will immediately proceed to vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 510, the FDA Food Safety and Modernization Act. As a result of the order that was just entered, the Senate will recess from 12:30 until 4 p.m. today.

FOOD SAFETY ACT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am not going to give a long speech on food safety. I will say, however, how important it is.

I read a column today where someone kind of minimized the importance of this and why should the Senate be working on this issue. I would invite them to meet a number of people in Nevada who had near-death experiences as a result of eating tainted food. That is what this legislation is all about. It is something we should have done before. It is a real shame that we have not been able to. I hope we can get this done before we leave here this year. I cannot get out of my mind the little girl who was so sick from eating spinach that was tainted. She has been hurt so badly for the rest of her life. She was held back in school. Her body is not what it should be. Her growth has been stunted. So anyone who minimizes the importance of this legislation does not understand how sick these people get and how often they die as a result of food poisonings.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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